

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A specimen dispensing system comprising:

a master specimen container containing a specimen;

a required number of empty slave specimen containers;

a plurality of conveyor lanes;

conveying means cooperable with the conveyor lanes for conveying ~~a the~~ master specimen container ~~containing a specimen and a required number of the~~ empty slave specimen containers on ~~a the~~ plurality of conveyor lanes, ~~the conveyor lanes being configured such that wherein~~ the master and slave specimen containers are aligned on the conveyor lanes in a conveyance direction;

a dispensing unit including a dispensing nozzle; and

~~the conveying~~ stopping means for temporarily stopping the master and slave specimen containers when the master and slave specimen containers reach a position under ~~a the~~ dispensing nozzle ~~in a dispensing unit; and,~~

~~dispensing means for~~ the dispensing unit removing the specimen from the master specimen container by the dispensing nozzle when the master specimen container is temporarily stopped in the position under the dispensing nozzle and dispensing the specimen to the slave specimen containers when the slave specimen containers are temporarily stopped in the position under the dispensing nozzle, wherein the dispensing ~~means-unit~~ is movable in a direction crossing the conveyor lanes.

2. (Currently Amended) The specimen dispensing system according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of said dispensing ~~means~~ units, wherein each of the dispensing means units dispenses the specimen to the slave specimen containers from the master specimen container on the conveyor lane concurrently with dispensing operations on other conveyor lanes.

3. (Currently Amended) A specimen dispensing system comprising:
a master specimen container containing a specimen;
a required number of empty slave specimen containers;
a plurality of conveyor lanes;
a conveying mechanism cooperable with the conveying lanes that conveys ~~a the~~ master specimen container ~~containing a specimen and a required number of the~~ empty slave specimen containers on ~~a plurality the plurality~~ of conveyor lanes, ~~the conveyor lanes being configured such that wherein~~ the master and slave specimen containers are aligned on the conveyor lanes in a conveyance direction; and

a dispensing unit including a dispensing nozzle, the dispensing unit removing the specimen from the master specimen container by the dispensing nozzle when the master specimen container is temporarily stopped under the dispensing nozzle, and the dispensing unit dispensing the specimen to the slave specimen containers when the slave specimen containers are temporarily stopped under the dispensing nozzle, wherein the dispensing unit is movable in a direction crossing the conveyor lanes.